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# Browning Club - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 301)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Kentucky Library & Museum  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 301      BROWNING Club**

2 boxes. 17 folders. 206 items. 1913-1997. Originals.

2010.18.1

***ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY***

The Browning Club was organized in September, 1895, with six charter members, which increased over the years to eighteen members. The purpose of the Club was to meet to read and study the works of Robert Browning together; the scope of the club's programs has expanded over the years to include a wide array of subjects. The second year, the club studied Shakespeare; the following year the Bible was chosen. Each year a topic of study is selected and members take turns preparing a program for presentation at a meeting or hosting the meeting.

The club did not formally organize with a constitution until later, and the first constitution available is 1931. The constitution contains information about membership, dues, and the organization of the course of study and how it has evolved since 1931. In 2010, the Browning Club voted to permanently archive their papers at the Kentucky Library & Museum.

***COLLECTION NOTES***

The papers of the Browning Club have been organized into two series. Series I contains the organization's minutes. These minutes record the date and place of each meeting as well as the hostess and program presenter. The secretary also records information related to the program in the minutes. In earlier years, the presenter actually turned in notes that were included with the minutes. These notes were separated from the minutes and appear in Series II. Series II contains administrative papers, such as the constitutions, correspondence, programs, loose materials about programs, histories, photographs, and miscellaneous material related to the club. The early programs were printed and contained the course of study for the club year, including the topic chosen by each individual, the hostess name, and the date. The last printed program was for the program year 1950-1951; afterwards a mimeographed or photocopied program was prepared.

The club does not have its early minutes and there are gaps in many of the files. Excessive duplicates were removed. All paper clips and other fasteners were removed from the collection and replaced with coated clips or stainless steel clips; articles on newsprint were

photocopied on acid-free paper and all materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. The club will regularly add new material to the collection.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>SERIES I</b>	<b>Browning Club – Administrative papers</b>	<b>1950-1997</b>	<b>10 items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>1950-1997</b>	<b>10 items</b>
Folder 1a	Inventory	n.d.	1 item
Folder 1	Minutes	Sept. 22, 1950- May 14, 1955	1 item
Folder 2	Minutes	Sept. 23, 1955- May 24, 1959	1 item
Folder 3	Minutes	Sept. 25, 1959- May 18, 1962	1 item
Folder 4	Minutes	Sept. 28, 1962- May 5, 1967	1 item
Folder 5	Minutes	Sept. 22, 1967- May 3, 1974	1 item
Folder 6	Minutes	Sept. 13, 1974- March 16, 1979	1 item
Folder 7	Minutes	Sept. 14, 1979- May 6, 1988	1 item
Folder 8	Minutes	Sept. 9, 1988- May 24, 1994	1 item
Folder 9	Minutes	Sept. 13, 1994- August 16, 1997	1 item
<b>SERIES II</b>	<b>Browning Club – Administrative papers</b>	<b>1913-1996</b>	<b>197 items</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Miscellaneous administrative papers</b>	<b>1913-1996</b>	<b>197 items</b>
Folder 1	Constitutions	1931-1994	5 items

Folder 2	Histories	1970-1995	12 items
Folder 3	Membership	1950-1996	13 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	1963-1995	16 items
Folder 5	Programs	1913-1996	38 items
Folder 6	Loose material about programs	1956-1966	69 items
Folder 7	Loose material about programs	1970-1987	26 items
Folder 8	Photographs	1970-1995, n.d.	18 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS BROWNING Club 1913-1997  
301

Constitutions, minutes, club histories,  
membership and program materials of the  
Browning Club, a women's literary club founded  
in Bowling Green in 1895.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Clubs – Bowling Green, 1913-

Societies – Bowling Green, 1913-

Women – Societies and clubs, 1913-

Jeffrey 03/01/2010